

Bingham's Record in 1905 Best Made in the Whole World



Bingham, Main Canyon.

Lower Part of Bingham Canyon.

FEATURES OF THE BINGHAM CAMP.

- District provides employment for 4,000 people.
- Has pay rolls aggregating approximately \$120,000 a month.
- Mines produce over 4,000 tons of ore daily.
- In two years the output will be 20,000 tons daily.
- Big undertakings are planned for 1906.
- Camp is still full of chances for investment of capital.
- Copper output for the year exceeds 45,000,000 pounds.

No mining camp in the United States, probably no camp in the world, has attracted as much attention and made such an enviable record during 1905 as has Bingham, just across the valley eighteen miles from this city, the queen city—the city of opportunities—of the west. Eight short years ago the camp was known only as a lead and gold producer. Today it is recognized as a great copper camp, a camp destined to outrank Butte by the end of the present and rapidly waning century. The most reputable and learned mining engineers of the country have had no hesitancy in declaring that hundreds of millions of tons of copper-bearing ore that can be depended upon to earn magnificent profits has been proven to exist in the mines of the district. Others will tell you that it is possible today to actually measure up more than 100,000,000 tons of this character of ore; they will tell you, also, that under most favorable conditions, with copper bringing one-third less than it is selling for now, this ore will net the producers all the way from \$2 to \$5 per ton, according to the grade of the ore and the ability of the companies to mine and treat it.

Had Samuel Newhouse offered the declaration five years back he made a few weeks ago, to the effect that the Boston Consolidated company's mines

could be made to earn 8 per cent per annum on a valuation of \$100 per share for his company's stock, or \$5,000,000, he would have been laughed at. As it is his statement has gone unchallenged. Today the declaration is not counted as extravagant at all, and it is recognized, also, that other mines of the camp are prepared to do as well on their capitalizations.

Every day and every week the papers of this country, western and eastern, have been telling of the achievements in the camp of Bingham, which, ten years ago, was practically unknown to the outside world. Now its reputation is world-wide and as flawless as it is broad. Under these conditions it will be unnecessary, in this review of the year's doings, to go into great detail. It would only tire the reader. What may be said is not, therefore, intended for those who are already posted; it is given for the benefit of those who do not already know.

Copper Production Increases.

As the figures come through various sources and are not segregated in a manner that permits of crediting the producers each with their proportion, enough is known to say that Bingham's contribution to the state's total output of copper probably exceeds 45,000,000 pounds. The Utah Consolidated company, of course, stands at the head of the list, just as it stands

at the head of the list of the state's dividend-payers for the year. The Yampa company has made great gains, so has the Utah Copper, Boston Consolidated, Bingham Consolidated and Ohio Copper company. The rapidly increasing market price of copper, silver and lead has made the product of the district afford a handsome profit, though the crippling of transportation facilities has resulted in the curtailment of shipments just at a time when it was all the more desirable to make the output heavy.

Millions Are Invested.

Nothing, perhaps, better illustrates the worth of the Bingham camp than the scramble for a foothold in it that has been made during the year by the country's biggest mining operators. When the management of the Utah Copper company declared its intention of raising \$3,000,000 with which to further develop its mines, build mills, railroads, etc., the ever-alert Guggenheim combination, the General Electric company and other powerful combinations of capital and keen operators, at once expressed a desire to provide the cash. The Guggenheims won out. They not only supplied the money desired, but also succeeded in landing control of the company on a basis of between \$11,000,000 and \$13,000,000 for the whole.

Boston Con. in the Swim.

It was currently and persistently reported that the same combination had tried hard to land control of the Boston Consolidated, but failing in its purpose, the open market was invaded and the shares were bought up the line from \$8 to \$30. This was done after the company had already negotiated a loan of more than \$1,000,000 to improve its property and erect a mammoth milling plant. That the Guggenheims and Boston Consolidated interests have since been exceedingly friendly is shown in the fact that the latter was invited to erect its works in the vicinity of the American company's

mammoth new copper smelting works, along with the Utah Consolidated and permitted also to get in on the town-site, waterworks and other enterprises that were made a part of the American Smelter company's scheme to build a city and closely link together the mining, milling and smelting interests of the state and the camp of Bingham, in particular.

Purchases and Improvements.

Early in the year Colonel E. A. Wall, who had long recognized the prospective value of the Starless group of mines, adjoining the Utah Copper company's properties, bought the group for something under \$75,000 cash and began its development. It would take many times that sum to touch it now and, during the year just dawning, there is no doubt but what he will be treating the ores from it in the several hundred-ton mill constructed by him during the last year close to the property.

The enlargement of the Yampa smelter, which, during the next month or two, will be ready to handle 700 tons or more of ore per day, has entailed an investment of possibly more than \$250,000, while the purchase of properties in various portions of the camp, the building of tramways and the providing of other equipment in the district, has undoubtedly called for the employment of \$250,000 more. In fact, money has been poured into the camp with a lavish but withal a discerning hand and the camp and state has prospered and forged ahead correspondingly.

Grown Out of Its Boots.

The camp has grown right out of its boots. Like a fiery steed changing its bit and impatiently waiting to spring into action, so has the producers of Bingham been held in check during the year. Production has, of course, exceeded that of 1904, but it has not been nearly what it might have been under different conditions. Transportation facilities have been altogether inadequate; the Copper Belt road that runs

its trains between a number of the mines and the mills and smelters, both at camp and in the valley, has worn its engines out trying to meet the demand made upon it. The four great smelting plants in the valley just south of this city and the plant of the Yampa company at Bingham, have not been able to treat the volume of ore that might have been poured into them, and it is a question whether the mammoth works at Garfield, now building, will not prove altogether too small by the time they are completed, to meet the requirements of Bingham and the other near-by camps, without counting anything offered from the outside, at all.

Railroads Must Hustle.

The Rio Grande railroad is preparing to build a new line to connect the mines with the road it has already practically completed from a point below Bingham to the new mill and smelter town, but operators in the camp declare that it will never be able to handle the traffic that is to come until it has double-tracked the fifteen or eighteen miles between camp and the works at Garfield. A mint of money, an army of men and directing heads quick to perceive and act, are going to be required to work out the transportation problems that must be solved during the next twelve months. When this has been done the mines of Bingham will startle the world and set a pace in metal mining the like of which has never yet been seen outside of the iron mines of the country. Twenty thousands of tons of ore per day is a modest estimate of what the output of Bingham will be inside of twenty-four months.

Output, Pay Rolls, Etc.

The output of the camp today is approximately 4,000 tons every twenty-four hours. It is often considerably more than that, and frequently less, so that the total, as given will just about hit the mark for the year. There is just about 2,500 miners employed in the district and, taking in all lines of business and branches of industry,

close to 4,000 people must be finding steady and remunerative employment within the boundaries of the district. Allowing \$3 per capita as the earning capacity of this community, it is seen that \$120,000 per month is being paid out to keep the wheels of industry revolving. Contributors to this fund are the mining, milling and smelting companies, the railroads, power companies and business men of the camp. It is safe to say that nearly all of this money finds its way directly or indirectly into Salt Lake, where it is banked, invested in real property or used in the purchase of comforts and necessities of life.

Things That Are Coming.

Following the large outlays of capital that has characterized the past year's operations in the camp, another year of construction and equipment, purchase of property and development is at hand. It is certain that the Ohio Copper company is to be reorganized, its mines equipped with high-class, modern and expensive machinery, and its milling plant increased from 300 to possibly 700 or 800 tons per day. These things are going to entail an expenditure of probably \$500,000, and give steady employment to a large number of men and mechanics.

The Fortuna company is going to re-construct and greatly enlarge the Fortuna mill, a plant that was built on its property several years ago and never used, when the ground was split up and owned by several different interests and companies.

Another combination that will require and is practically certain to build a large milling plant is the Silver Shield-United Bingham companies. Whether this will be done through one or the two companies depends on the negotiations for consolidation that are pending as this review is written. No matter what the fate of the deal, however, provision for the treatment of the ore and the properties must and will be made.

The Utah Copper company, in pursuance of the plans mapped out long

since, will add to the capacity of its great milling plant in the camp so that it will handle not less than 1,000 tons of ore per day, as against the average of 700 tons now being treated.

A few weeks ago the Bingham-Copper Hill company was organized to operate a fine property adjoining the Congor and a big power plant will have to be made a part of its equipment. New hoisting works are to go on the Bingham-Mary company's ground, and the Congor will also branch out and make a noise during the year, and the Nevada-Utah company will cut loose at the Last Chance, one of the camp's famous old producers.

It is also a foregone conclusion that the Bingham-Central company will be in line for powerful machinery and equipment during the year, while the reorganized Shawmut company is counted upon to reach a stage of development in its property that will necessitate the rebuilding and enlargement of its milling plant.

Still Room for Capital.

Everywhere in the camp during the last twelve months the greatest activity has been shown by companies and individual owners of ground, from the mouth of Bingham canyon on the east, clear over the range into Tooele county, and from northern to the southern limits of the district. Any number of properties are producing to a greater or less extent and the reports that have come regularly from all along the line indicate that many of the little fellows will be heard from by and by when capital comes to recognize that all they need is the "answers of war" to make them rank well up with some of their big neighbors, neighbors who were once as little thought of and who were as poor as they are.

Much could be said for the promising prospects of the camp, but there are too many of them to go into detail. It can be said, however, that there is still opportunities to get into the camp right and many combinations of importance is likely to be made during the coming year.

Much Activity Displayed During Year in La Sal Mountains

The La Sal mountains, in which the mineral discoveries of the last few years have created so much interest among the mining men of the west, are situated in eastern Utah, near the Colorado line, the northern part, above Geyser pass, being in Grand county, and the southern part in San Juan county. They may be seen in the distance from the cars of the Rio Grande Western railway on leaving Grand Junction and do not disappear from view until one has passed 100 miles westward.

Their white-capped peaks form a glorious background for the wide expanse of mesas that stretch from them to the Book Cliffs on the north, and southward as far as the eye can reach, through which the Grand and Green rivers cut their way down canyons with perpendicular walls several hundred feet high, uniting ninety miles south and forming the Colorado river, which passes on to the Pacific, through the grandest canyon known to the world. They lie in the line of the old Spanish trail to the north, and traditions of rich Spanish mines in the misty past are current. As early in the history of the United States as the administration of Thomas Jefferson these mountains were the subject of diplomatic correspondence with Spain.

The La Sals are of volcanic formation; the peaks rise abruptly from the sandstone mesas that surround them. They have an elevation of over 13,500 feet. They are in three divisions or groups of peaks, being divided by two passes. The northern pass, through which the dividing line of Grand and San Juan counties runs, is known as Geyser; the southern is called La Sal pass.

The mountains appear to have been forced up through the surrounding mesas, each group or division of peaks

being the center of a distinct volcanic force.

The formation is igneous and all of the metamorphic rocks abound. Veins of quartz, quartzite, porphyry, granite and spar are well defined and stand perpendicular; those in the center ridge or backbone run nearly north and south and those in the spurs and the east lead to the northeast, while those in the spurs on the west lead to the northwest.

While by no means all of the La Sals have been prospected, yet considerable development work has been done in the last few years.

Among the properties that have seen considerable development are the Little Dot and Green Mountain, belonging to Sam McGraw; the M. I. F., Double Standard and Florence, belonging to Fowler, Hepburn and Price, and the Skyline, belonging to Wolf brothers, on which something over 250 feet of a tunnel has been run. These properties are gold and copper propositions and are all in Miners' basin, near the center of the La Sals. The Skyline is being worked at the present time and has recently produced some very rich copper ore.

The five-stamp mill belonging to R. J. Thompson, which is in Miners' basin, has been in use for the past few days in making a test run on ore from the Tornado, the property of M. I. Fowler.

Tom Long was making the test for Denver parties and expected to mill five tons of ore. He was stopped, however, by a snowstorm when he had milled a thousand pounds.

The ore that was treated ran something over \$15 to the ton. This property will be worked during the winter to block out ore to be treated in the spring, when a tramway will be put in.



Interstate Company's Cyanide Mill in La Sal.

In Beaver basin, on the north end of the La Sals, Jack Beasley, the veteran miner of Provo, is working a number of men on the property of the Inter-

national Copper company. This company has some fine prospects. L. Anties and Fred McCoy, who have over five tons of ore out that will

run \$100 to the ton, on their claims in Beaver basin, have consolidated their property with the De Rago-La Sal company, and L. C. Heath is now in

Denver organizing a company to work the property in the spring.

The Emmett placer, in Pinhook, is showing better values with every foot drilled. They have already gone 1,100 feet through gravel and expect bedrock in the near future. The gravel carries enough gold to pay, throughout the length of the tunnel, but until bedrock is reached the water supply will not be sufficient to properly work the dirt.

The Wilson Mesa Placer company, which recently arranged with the farmers of Moab for the use of the waters of Mill creek for placer purposes, is at work on a ditch to carry the water from Mill creek onto the Wilson mesa, where it will be put in a hydraulic plant to work the claims when spring opens. This company has 400 acres of rich placer ground. It will build a solid masonry dam to make a reservoir for settling the water after it has been used for placer purposes and then return it to Mill creek.

The Interstate Mining, Milling & Development company, which is backed by Iowa and Ohio capital, has just

completed a 100-ton cyanide plant in Gold basin. It has spent over \$70,000 in building roads to and developing its property, and is now running on ore taken from a quartz ledge over 100 feet wide. It has been blocking out ore for two years and has done 3,000 feet of work on the property. All of the buildings are lighted by electricity and have a thorough water system. The mill is first class throughout. The ore is run through a large Blake crusher and then to Elpass mills. The ore is transported from the mine to the mill by a Leshin automatic tramway. J. H. Clark, one of the pioneer prospectors of the La Sals, is superintendent of the mine and Lee Beam has charge of the ore treatment.

Where Does Dowie Come In?

(Chicago Record-Herald.) William Alden Smith of Michigan has, it is understood, come to the conclusion after long studies of the La Sals, that things which bear the stamp of heavenly inspiration, to wit: The Dingley tariff bill, the end of the epic of Homer and the works of Shakespeare.

William H. Alexander

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